

Christian Statesman

L. CII

Pittsburgh, Pa., March, 1958

No. 2

SHALL WE LEGALIZE GAMBLING?

Rev. Frank C. Ramsey, D.D.

Gambling Is A Perennial Problem

Six bills were introduced in the recent session of the Pennsylvania legislature for the purpose of legalizing gambling. Recently there have been suggestions that Congress legalize gambling as a means of financing our national obligations. This is by no means a new or novel method of finance. Gambling has been with us since the day when early man practiced it by the use of animal bones. Race track gambling is as old as ancient time. God forbid that in our day and generation we should try "To do evil that good may come."

Gambling Runs In Cycles

Gambling at one time or another has been frowned upon, ignored, legalized in one form or another and made a government monopoly. Many solutions have been tried. No method of handling the problem has had more than nominal success. Ernest Haven, staff writer for *Life* magazine, points out that gambling runs in cycles. 1. Under the ban on gambling, so many people begin winning and losing that the whole social structure is threatened; 2. All gambling is outlawed; 3. The law proves unenforceable and a source of corruption; 4. A few types of gambling are legalized, but this proves to be an unworkable compromise; 5. Finally, all types are permitted and the cycle begins all over again. Mr. Haven says that while the types differ in our various communities, it can be said in general that in the United States up until 1900 we were in the third stage. At that time many states began legalizing race track gambling, and that we are now in the fourth stage. Nevada is the exception. Nevada, being especially forward or re-

gressive, depending upon how one views the matter, is already in the fifth stage. *Gambling Is Big Business.*

The total amount of money taken from the same fifty million men and women who gamble amounts to the staggering figure of around six billion dollars annually. This is more than the combined profits of one hundred of our large industries. This raises a most interesting question: how can a secret industry do a thirty billion dollar business with a net profit of six billion dollars? The answer is very simple. The business must have customers. The business must have organization. To any thoughtful person making only a casual study of the subject, gambling is as obvious as the corner drug store.

The Nature Of Gambling.

Canon Foster Green says: "A Gamble is an agreement between two parties, whereby the transfer of something of value from one to another is made dependent upon an uncertain event, in such a way that the gain of one party is balanced by the loss of the other." Risks must be made in business, the element of uncertainty characterizes the whole of life. However, it is an abuse of language to call it all a gamble. The evil of gambling is not the risk but the getting of something for nothing. In gambling one man's gain is another's distinct loss. The gambler who wins, renders no service to the man who loses. In every legitimate business some service is rendered to the community, some increase of natural wealth and some benefit to both parties concerned in the transaction. Those who

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The Editor's Page

A MORAL REVOLUTION NEEDED

In view of the breakdown in morals across the nation, the increase in crime, the heavy drinking, the corruption found in public life and other evils so prevalent today, it is not at all surprising to find in the pages of religious publications and reform and temperance journals, expressions of concern over what is happening in America and the call to a return to the basic laws of morality. It is perhaps somewhat surprising when one finds secular newspaper editorials and non-religious publications expressing a similar concern. Is the antithesis to the present day thesis beginning to formulate which will result in a new synthesis? How much worse must conditions become in order to produce an aroused public opinion in the interests of a higher morality? Is there any evidence of a growing concern? Some are concerned.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, showing some concern about the commercialization of the Lord's Day, recently called a meeting in the Penn Harris Hotel in Harrisburg which was attended by two hundred or more labor leaders, church and reform workers, members of chambers of commerce and other groups to see what could be done about working out a solution to the problem. It was our privilege to be present at this meeting. Of course not all who were at this meeting were there because they regarded Sabbath keeping a moral issue. Some were perhaps thinking of it only from an economic and labor point of view, yet we were impressed with the strong moral and religious emphasis in the remarks of most of those who spoke.

There appeared, recently, in "Labor",



the official publication of the Railway Unions, an editorial entitled, "Corruption Is Seeping Into All Walks Of Life" which we quote in part as follows:

Is a cynical standard of morality spreading through all walks of life in the United States? That question was raised and answered with a positive "Yes" by two well known editors of daily newspapers during the past week—that is Ralph McGill, of the *Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution*, and William T. Evjue, of the *Madison (Wis.) Capital Times*.

McGill cites officials who regard the office as a "license to use public money as they please and profit thereby when they can"; also, members of Federal commissions who draw "expense money from the Government "and at the same time from some public source."

Likewise, he points to the fact that many state legislatures "are producing their usual malodorous fare." Also, many county and state officials have secret and lucrative interests in firms selling

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THE CHRISTIAN STATESMAN, devoted to Christian Political and Social Science, founded in 1867, is the official organ of The National Reform Association, an organization of Christian citizens, founded in 1863. Published January, March, May, July, September and November at the Association's Headquarters, 209 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh 22, Pa. Subscription rate, \$1.50 a year. J. Renwick Patterson, D.D., Editor.
(Second class mail privileges authorized at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

"SICKNESS" OF OUR FAMILY LIFE

(An oration by James Pennington, first year student in the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, prepared and delivered during his senior year in Geneva College.)

Can you imagine the shock, the horror, the disbelief appearing in the patient's eyes as she listens to the sentence, coming from the doctor's lips, "You have leprosy." And to think that this fearful, emaciating disease was first revealed by the appearance of a small pinkish spot on the victim's arm. The horror continued to mount as the new victim walked through the leprosarium, viewing the decaying effects of leprosy in its advanced stages. The skin, especially of the hands, arms and face had erupted with open sores and large lumps. The vision of some had grown dim, while in other cases, the destruction of the optic nerves had caused total blindness. Fingers and toes had withered, and some entirely disappeared, as if they had dropped off.

This strange disease is comparatively rare in our country, but there exists another leprous type of disease of far greater scope. This malignant disease threatens to destroy the very foundation of our society. This disease of such great magnitude is the "sick" condition of our American family life.

William Makepeace Thayer, American author and sociologist during the Nineteenth century:

"As are families, so is society. If well ordered, well governed, and well instructed, they are the springs from which go forth the streams of national prosperity, civil order, and public happiness."

Surely, Mr. Thayer would have agreed that, on the other hand, if our families are disorderly, unprincipled, and in a state of utter confusion, they are nothing more than polluted, germ-infested springs from which go forth the streams of social evils and disorders.

Since leprosy often lies dormant in the victim's body for years, the doctor may be unaware of its insidious presence until the appearance of the initial symptom—the small pinkish spot on the victim's skin. As the more prominent symptoms appear, they merely confirm the very real existence and growth of the disease.

The diseased condition of our modern family life has, in recent years, become quite evident. Not only have the initial pink spots appeared, but the appearance of many prominent symptoms of this malignant condition provides undeniable evidence that the disease is in its advanced stages. One such prominent symptom is the shocking spread of juvenile crime in our country.

Six girls between the ages of fourteen and sixteen were recently brought before a juvenile court in a large Eastern city. One of the girls was called as a witness in the prosecution. When asked why she spent so much time in the disreputable roadhouse where she was picked up by the police, she resentfully answered, "I wanted to be with my friends. I can't have any fun at home. My mother and father always want me to get out of the house. Where else can I go?" How would you have answered her question? Where else could she have gone? She only wanted companionship and a sense of belonging, which she did not find at home. How widespread is this indifferent attitude of parents toward their children? Statistics show that two thirds of our delinquent young people are victims of parental indifference. These irresponsible parents force their children to seek elsewhere for the love and security which should be provided in the home, with absolutely no guidance as to where they

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goods and services to the State.

He refers likewise to public officials who "enter office without means and leave it well off by reason of having shrewd 'within the law' machinations at the expense of the taxpayers." "In the South," he adds, "the situation as to 'rascality' in public office is often so utterly cynical as to be preposterous." In other words, "anything goes" so long as it doesn't violate the law.

Evjue, in even stronger terms, declares that "one of the most deplorable aspects of American life today is the deepening indifference of the American people to the low moral standards that prevail and the widespread corruption that prevails in a government that is infested with opportunism."

He blamed the situation on rampant materialism that has supplanted the moral values that have given substance to the free way of life throughout our history. "The real trouble," he says, "is that the dollar sign instead of the cross is the star toward which American eyes turn today."

The "Labor" editorial closes with this statement: "Clearly, as these noted editors pointed out, what's needed in this country today is a new revolution that will sweep through the unions, industry, government, the professions, and every facet of American life. Idealism must replace cynicism, if the vaunted American way of life is to survive."

We are in accord with this conclusion. This is precisely what the *Christian Statesman* and the National Reform Association have been saying throughout the course of their history. A moral reformation is needed throughout American life, a reformation founded upon the basic laws of morality, which are the ten commandments. The place for such a reformation to begin is with a recognition in the highest law of the land of the Author of moral law, Jesus Christ, the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

THE NEW "FACTS" FOLDER

We are including with this issue of the *Christian Statesman* a copy of our most recent "Facts About Intoxicating Liquors" folder. This folder is available in various quantities at the prices quoted at the bottom of the fourth page of the folder. Write for special rates on quantities of 5,000 or more. The folder included with this issue is entirely national in character. Similar folders can be had on order for any state with statistics pertaining to that state on the upper half of page four. The balance is identical with the folder attached. It is also possible to have the imprint of the sponsoring group or state organization at the bottom of the fourth page.

The folder is designed for quick and easy reading—yet in brief form it presents the outstanding current facts about alcoholic beverages—statistics often wanted but hard to find. Keep the folder handy for ready reference. Why not order a quantity now for distribution. They have been widely used by churches, schools, temperance organizations, youth groups, etc., and in distribution from door to door. Help place it in the hands of millions of Americans. Write to The National Reform Association, 209 Ninth St., Pittsburgh 22, Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL TEMPERANCE
and
PROHIBITION COUNCIL

The editor, with Mrs. Patterson as alternate, represented the National Reform Association at the National Temperance and Prohibition Council in Washington, D. C., January 22-24. The Council, which meets annually in Washington, brings together the leaders in the field of temperance from across the nation. In the absence of the President, Major Clayton Wallace, National Director of the National Temperance League, Vice-President Bishop Wilbur E. Hammaker presided and opened the Council with a most inspiring message on the quest for happiness.

A delightful experience in connection with the meeting was the Annual Fellowship Breakfast of the International Reform Federation held in the Senate Dining Room of the

capitol. About 20 members of Congress were among the guests, were introduced, and spoke briefly.

Senator William Langer, N. D., visited the council and spoke regarding his bill (582) to prohibit alcoholic beverage advertising in interstate commerce. (The Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee has scheduled a hearing for this bill for April 22. The editor expects to attend this hearing.) Senator Strom Thurmond, S. C., also visited the council and spoke regarding his bill (S. 4) to prohibit the serving of alcoholic beverages on airplanes.

New officers: Pres. Dr. C. X. Hutchinson, Jr.; Vice-pres., James Renz, Mrs. Glenn G. Rags; Sec'y., W. A. Sharffenberg; Treas. Bishop Wilbur E. Hammaker.

We of the National Reform Association express our deepest sympathy to Dr. Z. H. Rodes, secretary of our board of directors, in the passing of his beloved wife whose death occurred suddenly on Thursday, March 6. Services were held in the Evangelical United Brethren Church of Wilksburg, Pa. at 10:30 a.m. March 10.

"SICKNESS" OF OUR FAMILY LIFE

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ould go. What right have we, then, to be so shocked when many young people turn to gang life and delinquent activities in search of satisfaction for these basic human needs? This tremendous social problem continues to grow, and now reaches into every area and group in our society. Can we continue to carelessly disregard this malignant, germ-infested condition of our family life when this prominent symptom alone is so clearly exposed to view.

Of course, a doctor, before beginning the diagnosis of a sickness, must first have a vision of what a really well body is like. So must we first have a standard for the healthy family life, before attempting to find some of the germs, causing this malignant, diseased condition. The healthy, sturdy family structure must be built and operated according to the blueprint given in God's Word. The Bible, then, is our standard. In the account of the Creation, we find that God also cre-

ated and ordained the institution of the family. "And God blessed Adam and Eve, and God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth." Then the parents' first responsibility is to reproduce human life. But does the parents' family responsibility end here? In Proverbs 22:6, parents are specifically commanded to train up their children. And in Deuteronomy 6:6,7, God commands that His law is to be obeyed and taught to succeeding generations: "And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." Then the family was ordained of God that children might be trained to serve Him. The textbook is God's Word and the first classroom for training the child is the home. This is the standard, yet statistics show that forty million American young people receive absolutely no teaching from the Bible. The basic difficulty is that too many parents have lost sight of the true purpose for which God established the family.

God originally planned the family as a happy, blessed relationship between all of its members. According to God's pattern, the respective roles of the husband and wife are different, complementary, and equally necessary. The husband is head of the home and the wife is to serve as an obedient helpmeet. Of course, true obedience of the wife to her husband is an outgrowth of their mutual love. Children are commanded to obey their parents; but many parents fail to realize that teaching obedience is the first and most essential step necessary to successful discipline. Discipline of children must also be governed by the spirit of love—not by fear. These words of Francis Bacon well express the Biblical principle of discipline: "Happy are the families where the government of parents is the reign of affection and obedience of children, the submission of love." Strong and healthy families are dominated by this element of love, not by the selfishness and indifference which characterizes so

many of our families today.

Parents are responsible to God for training their children, and certainly proper social development is an essential part of the training. But when social activities take parents and children out of the home for most of their waking hours, a danger point has been reached. In short, American parents have unwittingly adopted a crucial part of the Marxist ideology; for in the words of the Communist Manifesto: "We replace home education with social." We have grown accustomed to dealing with young people as if they are the only delinquents. Many national, religious and social leaders blast irresponsible parents as the chief cause of delinquency. Placed under this classification are: those fathers who are too busy making a success of their business and social ambitions, and those mothers who are too wrapped up in their careers and social activities to invest time with their children. "But God pity those parents who bequeath to their children only the memory of a long succession of baby sitters."

How far have we strayed from God's purpose and pattern for the healthy family? If you have a family, it is your God-given responsibility to provide the love and unity which can restore it to the healthy condition which God originally intended. The almost forgotten practice of family worship and other family activities can become important means of knitting the family together as a solid unit, if parents will only take the necessary time and initiative in planning.

Successful mass injections of sulfone drugs, since 1948, have given new hope to victims of leprosy. There is also hope for the recovery of our decaying family life, but first we must fully realize the seriousness of this disease. We must realize that the home is not held together, as a healthy body, by good meals, comfortable beds, and an adequate pay check. The only true basis for lasting and genuine family unity must include faith in Jesus Christ. For without this

faith, a semblance of association between members may exist, but the family is doomed to crumble under the tremendous social pressures of modern day living. There is no time for complacency for if the family is allowed to crumble all is lost. Is your home the spiritual empire that it ought to be, according to God's pattern? Or is your home nothing more than a loose combination of a motor, a sandwich shop, and a miniature theater. The sovereign cure for this diseased and decaying condition of our family life is obedience to God's perfect standard, which so clearly reveals the true purpose and pattern for the healthy family.

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gamble are thus abusing the economic function of money as a medium of exchange for goods or services. The gambler instead of buttressing our economic system is undermining the whole financial structure by his greed to get something for nothing. The perversion of the use of money eventually leads to a collapse of money value resulting in poverty, social and civil disturbance, and starvation.

Gambling Is In The Hands Of Gangsters

Prior to the National Prohibition Act, gangsters' chief source of income was prostitution. From the First World War until repeal they engaged in bootlegging. Since the repeal gangsters have been engaged in gambling. Gangsters when driven from one field of activity turn their attention to another. It is quite likely that if driven from gambling they will turn to narcotics, trade unions, and legitimate business. The transfer of activity from one emphasis to another should not be an occasion for pessimism. If one by one the criminal activities of gangsters are eliminated from prostitution, bootlegging, gambling, narcotics, trade unions, and legitimate business, it finally comes to the place where gangsters will turn from dealing with an illegitimate business in an illegitimate way to dealing with

itimate business in an illegitimate way. The whole process points up to the fact that when gangsters will be driven from competition with legitimate business conducted in a legitimate way. The final result will come in closing the door on gangster operations.

Gambling Is Wrong

This is the conclusion written into our jurisprudence (24:199-240) "Gambling is injurious to the morals and welfare of the people. It is not only within the state police power to suppress it in all its forms, but its duty to do so."

Detective-inspector Thompson, of the Scotland Yard, said, "Gambling is the chief source of crime." When he was questioned about the truth of his statement, he replied: "More prisoners attribute their fall to gambling than to any other cause. Every year thousands of cases of theft, bankruptcy, and suicide are the result of gambling." As a former bank official he said, "I have known men steal their employer's money to pay gambling debts. Many enforcement officers have become criminals themselves because of bribery and corruption of bookmakers."

Gambling Can Be Eradicated.

Those who advocate gambling say, "Gambling is a human instinct and of course you cannot change human nature." It can be said, "To err is human." This, however, does not prevent civilized people from striving to deter prostitution, drunk driving, theft, robbery and murder. The elimination of gambling in the last analysis depends upon three things: 1. A strong public opinion 2. Strong laws and

3. Rigid enforcement. The first is by far the most important. Even weaker laws with a strong public opinion will accomplish more than strong laws if not backed by public opinion.

Democracy Is At Stake

Jeffersonian democracy depends upon the principle that "People, if given the facts, will decide rightly." Gambling destroys and corrupts every aspect of life which it touches. It destroys money value and creates unemployment, hinders work and production, creates criminals and demoralizes police, fosters crimes of violence, corrupts sportmanship, ruins homes and dries up springs of generosity. Gambling can be eradicated if we have an adequate program of education in the home, in the schools, in the churches and by statesmanship. It will require the cooperation of all good people in the interest of good government and wholesome national life.

FROM THE STUDY WINDOW

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It shall come to pass in the latter days—He shall judge among many nations and rebuke many peoples. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation Neither shall they learn war any more.

Both the warning and the promise apply to us.

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.

I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the NATIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION (incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania),

FORM OF BEQUEST

the sum of.....dollars (.....)

(In case a testator wishes to leave some particular asset or piece of property instead of a sum of money he can do so by inserting a clear and sufficient description of it in place of words "the sum of," etc.)

FROM THE STUDY WINDOW

David M. Carson

Head of the Department of Political Science, Geneva College

Hebrew law, given by God through Moses, was built on three major principles: justice, mercy, and reverence for God.

The following centuries of Hebrew history are in large part a sad record of departures from that ideal of government and of the tragic consequences. Especially in the vivid writings of the prophets, who spoke and wrote in the declining days of the Hebrew kingdoms, it is as if one were looking at a negative of a beautiful picture—blacks white and whites black, a record of injustice, cruelty, and irreverence.

God had shewed the people what was good:

to do justly
and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with God.

But the reality was just the opposite.

The whole of Hebrew society was sick and every one in the society was in some measure to blame. The kings and their advisors, the officials, the judges, the whole government was morally sick, reflecting the sickness of society and encouraging the very evils it should have prevented.

The indictment is clear:

Amos, who warned a prosperous Israel of coming destruction, wrote of those who:

sell the righteous for silver,
the needy for a pair of shoes,
who trample the head of the
poor into the dust of the earth.

Hosea, who wrote when Israel was doomed, said:

You have plowed iniquity
and reaped in justice.

Micah challenged the rulers of Judah:

Is it not for you to know justice?
you who hate the good and love
the evil, who tear the skin from
off my people, and the flesh
from off their bones!

Zephaniah, in the last days of Judah's existence, wrote:

Her officials within her are
roaring lions; her judges are
evening wolves that leave
nothing till the morning

Most often, and in many ways, the prophets condemned the nations for their refusal to recognize God reverently. Their very worship was empty:

I hate, I despise your feasts;
The peace offerings of your
fatted beasts I will not look
upon.

There was a practical atheism in their policy.

Because you have trusted in
your chariots, and in the multi-
tude of your warriors, therefore,
the tumult of war shall arise
among you.

Or, as God said:

At that time I will search Jeru-
salem with lamps, and I will
punish the men who say in their
hearts,

The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do ill.

So, to an unjust and cruel people, who refused any real worship to God, destruction came.

But the prophets are also full of the promise:

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